

Sadler's Wells Flamenco Festival Review

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flamenco news

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festival overview

A week of Sara Baras performances - with one break for Miguel Poveda on the Tuesday evening - gave a sound start to London Flamenco Festival 2014 at Sadler's Wells back in March. The second week began with Ángel Muñoz, continued with Belén Maya and Manuel Liñán, and saw three days of gala from the Festival de Jerez 2013 Olga Pericet, Mercedes Ruiz, Laura Rozalén and Marcos Flores being chief among the stars. It all concluded with Farruquito.

Featuring beautiful llamadas, creative escobillas, and incredible fin de fiestas, the festival was a great success. Each night the theatre looked full and felt charged. With various "guapos" and "guapas" yelled from the audience or a bouquet of flowers thrown onstage to Miguel Poveda's feet by a grandmother whom he sweetly assumed was a "Mari Carmen", reflected the excitement of the weeks.

Miguel Poveda has a grin that can light up a room and a voice that fills you with joy. His Tuesday performance shared the stage with La Lupi who is a Malagueña with real "arte" for flamenco. His choice of cantes, which ranged from cante jondo to more traditional alegrías, was sometimes accompanied by La Lupi's unique way of dancing.

Ángel Muñoz was also incredible with his slow



Miguel Poveda
photo Maxi del Campo

and methodical walks or impressive footwork. Sweat dripped from his long curls and his simple yet elegant attire shaped his powerful legs nicely. Manuel Liñán and Belén Maya began the second week of the festival. The duo were a unique pairing with cat-like strides and jagged arm work. Liñán combined horse gallop type movements with sharp turns and clean footwork - impressive stuff. The Gala was a highlight of the Festival. Marcos Flores, Olga Pericet and Mercedes Ruiz designed a show that honoured the past and celebrated Flamenco's more modern elements.

There was something for everyone. The beautiful layered flamenco dresses and hammering of flamenco shoes pounding the Sadler's Wells stage presented some of the highest calibre dancing the UK will see this year.

By Rosamaria Cisneros-Kostic

Rosa earned the soubriquet "the American Gypsy" when she was living in Seville. She comes from a Spanish Roma mother and Serbian father. "I am a professional dancer and teacher as well as dance writer and historian, and have dedicated my life to flamenco, teaching and the Arts and just love being here in the UK," she says. She currently lives in Kenilworth, Warwickshire, but moves to Birmingham soon.